

July 27, 2010

Mr. Roger Kiers  
WSDOT Cultural Resources Specialist  
PO Box 47332  
Olympia, WA 98504-7332

RE: SR 162 Puyallup River (McMillin) Bridge Replacement Project  
Section 106 Consultation and Invitation to Participate as Consulting Party

Dear Mr. Kiers,

Thank you for your invitation to participate as a *Consulting Party* in your work to resolve adverse effects on the SR 162 McMillin Bridge crossing over the Puyallup River in Pierce County. **I accept your invitation to participate.**

My primary interest in the project relates to preventing any adverse effects to the historic McMillin Bridge. As you are aware, the bridge is listed on the National Register of Historic Properties (NRHP). The determination on the bridges nominated for this list involves an extensive evaluation by experienced bridge engineers. In the State of Washington, this evaluation normally results in the listing of fewer than four percent of the bridges built by the State and Local Agencies in any given decade.

The McMillin Bridge, constructed in 1934, is one of the most historically significant Washington Bridges now listed. This is due to its unique concrete truss design and construction, and its association with Homer Hadley. Mr. Hadley was a nationally prominent structural engineer, and Seattle bridge consultant known for innovation in both concrete and steel bridge design. Many of his designs were the first of their kind in the United States. Few, if any, reinforced concrete truss bridges exist in the United States. None include the unique structural and architectural details inherent in the McMillin Bridge.

During my 40 year engineering career in New York City, California and Washington State, I have worked in bridge construction, design, and preservation. I also spent six years in the Olympic Region (1982-1988) – *then called District 3*, as District 3 Assistant Location Engineer and State Aid Engineer.

I retired in 1998 after 30 years with WSDOT, my final nine years as State Bridge Preservation Engineer. Since then, I have worked on projects for both WSDOT and King County in identifying and evaluating historically significant candidates for nomination for listing on the NRHP.

To summarize, I've seen, and worked on a lot of bridges and in my opinion, the historic McMillin Bridge is **well worth saving in its current location**. I also have no doubt that this can be accomplished by some creative re-thinking on project design.

Sincerely,



Bob George, PE & Structural Engineer  
Retired WSDOT State Bridge Preservation Engineer and Bridge Historian